I'VE HEARD OF THEM,
BUT,
DON'T YOU DARE TRY ANY OF YOUR DIRTY TRICKS WHILE I'M HERE.
!!
STEALING INFORMATION, SABOTAGING RIVAL AGENCIES,
FUN, ISN'T IT? USING UNDER-HANDED MEANS TO SECURE THE JOBS YOU WANT.
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THE IDOLM@STER 2
アイドルマスター
The world is all one !!
第10話「傾く天秤」
CHAPTER 10 TILTING THE SCALES
祐佑
ゆうゆう
Yuu Yuu
原作／バンダイナムコゲームス
ORIGINAL WORK BY BANDAI NAMCO GAMES
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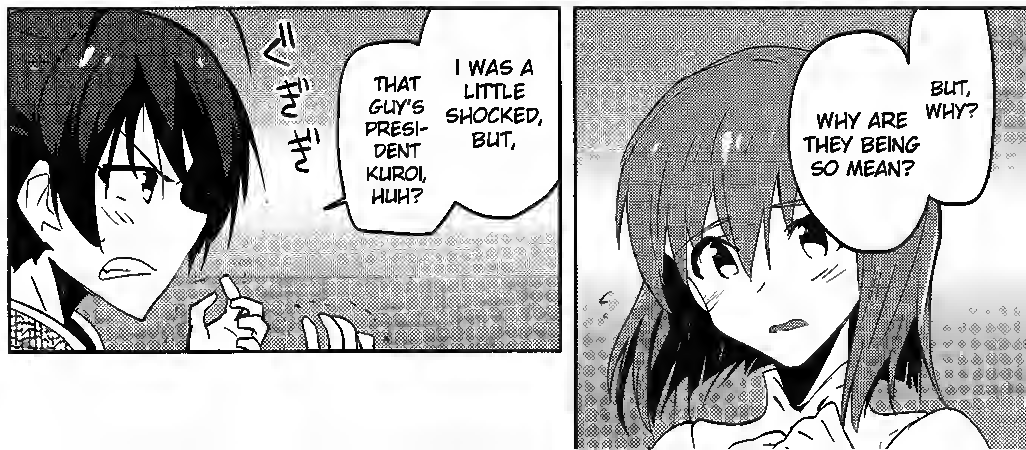
HUH?
WAIT A SECOND.
HE'S JUST REALLY ANGRY, ISN'T HE.
SEEMS LIKE HE HASN'T FOUND OUT...
DON'T YOU KNOW ANY SHAME?
WHAT'S THIS, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
AH. I KIND OF UNDER-STAND NOW.
HE DOESN'T KNOW THAT I'M FROM 961 PRO.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU HEARD FROM PRESIDENT KUROI THAT MADE YOU SO MAD, BUT,
KUROI?
!
WHICH MEANS THAT THIS SITUATION IS ALL THANKS TO PRESIDENT KUROI...
CAUSING TROUBLE RIGHT BEFORE OUR BROAD-CAST..
SNAPPING AT ME LIKE THAT ISN'T VERY NICE.
IS IT A HABIT OF YOURS?

I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU DIDN'T CAUSE TROUBLE FOR THE BROADCASTERS.
IT'S ALMOST TIME TO ENTER THE STUDIO.
PRESIDENT KUROI.
スッ
OH, CERTAINLY.
LOOKS LIKE THIS WAS ALL JUST A WASTE OF TIME.
...HMPH.
LET'S GO.
WE DON'T NEED TO CARE ABOUT THE SMALL FRY.

REALITY
!...
THAT WAS CLOSE!
I DIDN'T EXPECT SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO HAPPEN!
WHAT THE HECK IS HE DOING HERE!?
UH...

-DARE HE.
HUH?
...HOW DARE HE SAY SUCH THINGS,
ABOUT OUR PRODUCER!

YOU'RE ALWAYS TRYING YOUR HARDEST FOR OUR SAKE.
YET, HE DARED TO SAY SUCH TERRIBLE THINGS...!


BUT, WHY?
WHY ARE THEY BEING SO MEAN?
I WAS A LITTLE SHOCKED, BUT,
THAT GUY'S PRESI-DENT KUROI, HUH?
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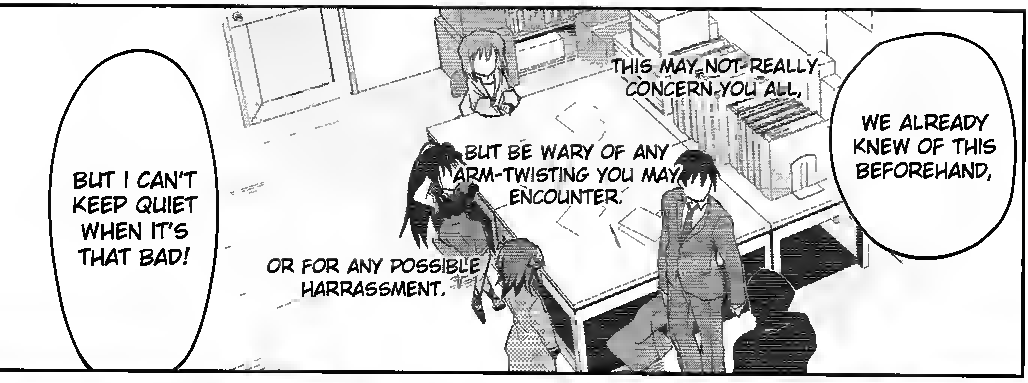
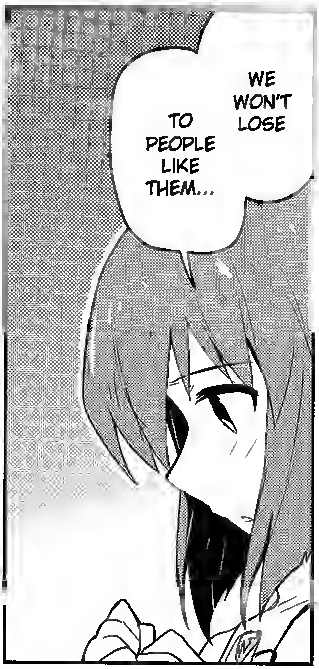

BUT I CAN'T KEEP QUIET WHEN IT'S THAT BAD!
OR FOR ANY POSSIBLE HARRASSMENT.
BUT BE WARY OF ANY ARM-TWISTING YOU MAY ENCOUNTER.
THIS MAY NOT REALLY CONCERN YOU ALL,
WE ALREADY KNEW OF THIS BEFOREHAND,

I WON'T BE HAPPY UNTIL WE SET THIS STRAIGHT!
YEP.
BELITTLING OUR EFFORTS SO HEARTLESSLY,
WE'LL PROVE IT BY BEATING THEM ON THE STAGE!
WE DIDN'T GET HERE BY DOING ANY DIRTY TRICKS.


WE WON'T LOSE TO PEOPLE LIKE THEM...

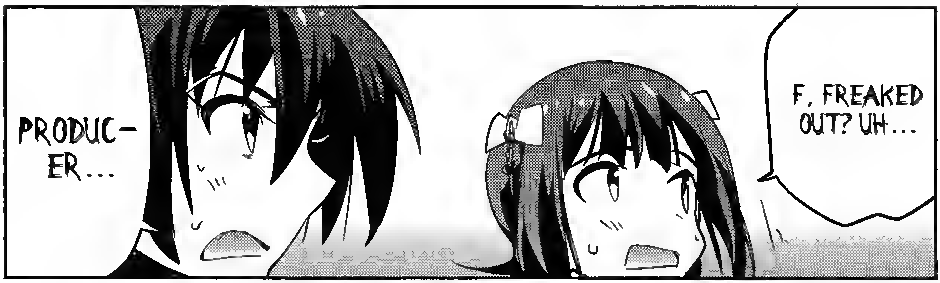
NOW, PRO-DUCER-

E!! E!! O-!!

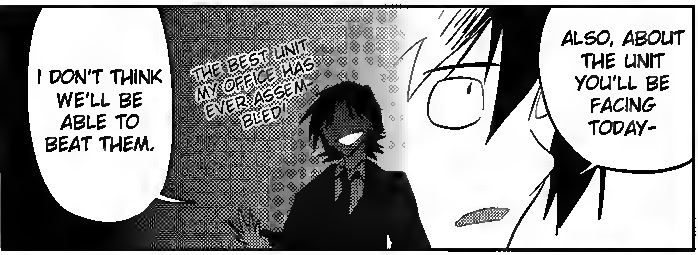
THEY'RE REALLY STRONG.
THERE SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM-
!
LET'S GO!
TO THE STUDIO!
とと
ARE THEIR HANDS TREMBLING?
BUT, WHY

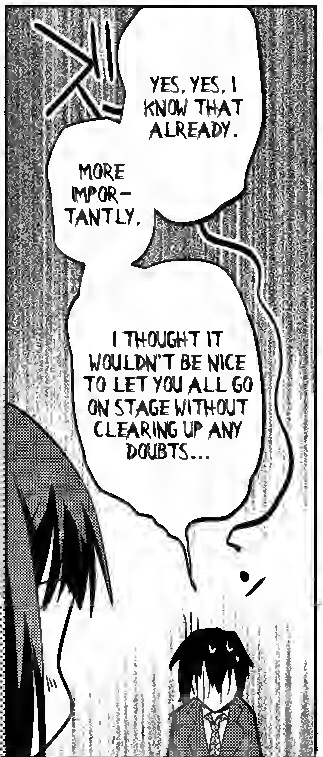
DON'T TELL ME THEY'RE JUST ACTING STRONG?
WAIT-
PRODUCER.
ALL THOSE LIES...
OUR PRODUC-ER...
ISN'T SOMEONE WHO WOULD DO SUCH TERRIBLE THINGS.
WE'LL WIN AND PROVE IT.
SO,
PLEASE, WATCH US!
I GET IT!
I GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, SO HOLD UP FOR A MOMENT.
I CAN'T LET THEM GO ONSTAGE IN THIS CONDITION!
THEY'RE TRYING TO GET OVER WHAT JUST HAPPENED, BUT-
THEY'RE FEELING UNEASY BECAUSE I DIDN'T REPLY TO THOSE ACCUSATIONS PROPERLY...

I'M REALLY
SORRY!
W, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING IN REPLY TO THEIR ACCUSATIONS.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
I WAS KIND OF FREAKED OUT EARLIER.
I REALLY DIDN'T EXPECT PRESIDENT KUROI TO SUDDENLY SHOW UP IN PERSON.


PRODUC-
ER...
F, FREAKED OUT? UH...

IT'S TRUE THAT YUKIHO DID HER BEST, BUT-
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FINISH HIM OFF!
I THOUGHT IT WOULDN'T BE GOOD IF I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING...
HI, HIBIKI! THAT'S-
YOU SHOULDN'T SAY THAT!
EVEN YUKIHO MANAGED TO SPEAK UP, AND SHE'S SCARED OF GUYS.


I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO BEAT THEM.
THE BEST UNIT MY OFFICE HAS EVER ASSEMBLED!
ALSO, ABOUT THE UNIT YOU'LL BE FACING TODAY-


YES, YES, I KNOW THAT ALREADY.
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY,
I THOUGHT IT WOULDN'T BE NICE TO LET YOU ALL GO ON STAGE WITHOUT CLEARING UP ANY DOUBTS...

!!
BUT... THAT'S HONESTLY NOT GONNA HELP AT ALL.
I MEAN, YOUR BIGGEST SELL-ING POINT ARE THOSE SMILES OF YOURS,

REALLY.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOU KEEP HIDING YOUR WORK SO MUCH.
WE WON'T KNOW ANYTHING IF YOU DON'T TELL US, YOU KNOW?
OF COURSE HE WAS! TREATING OUR PRODUCER WITH THAT KIND OF ATTITUDE...
.....
DON'T BE SO NERVOUS!
WHICH MEANS IT'S UP TO US THIS TIME!
SO, PRESIDENT KUROI WAS JUST SPREADING LIES ABOUT YOU, RIGHT?
EVEN NOW, THEY ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO SUSPECT ME OF ANYTHING.
NOT EVEN A WORD OF DOUBT.
YEAH!
SO THAT WE WON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA OR SOMETHING.
EXACTLY! I MEAN,
YOU SHOULD LET US KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON INSTEAD OF KEEPING IT A SECRET!
THAT'S WHY, PRODUCER,

I WOULDN'T EVER WANT THAT TO HAPPEN.
HOW-EVER,
I REALLY NEED TO SAY SOMETHING BEFORE THEY GO ON AIR...
UM,
IS THIS SPROUT? THE RECORDING IS GOING TO START SOON! PLEASE GO TO THE STUDIO!
AH.
WE HAVE TO GO...
I KNOW YOU'RE ALL FEELING A LITTLE UNEASY,
AND I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, EITHER,
SO I'LL JUST SAY ONE THING-
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S NOT THE TRUTH.

I NEED TO SAY SOMETHING TO MAKE THEM FEEL AT EASE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CARE ABOUT WHAT 961 PRO SAYS.
JUST SO THAT THEY CAN BE AT THEIR BEST ON STAGE,
I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING UNDER-HANDED,
AND YOU GUYS AREN'T THIRD-RATE, NOR ARE YOU BARGAIN-BIN IDOLS.
YEAH!
IT'S ALRIGHT AS LONG AS YOU KNOW THAT, OKAY?

REALLY, THAT WAS JUST A BIG LIE, WASN'T IT...
I HOPE MY FACE WASN'T TOO STIFF.
HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING UNDERHANDED, HUH.
IF YOU ONLY CONSIDER THE TIME I WORKED AS THEIR PRODUCER...
IT'S COME TO THE POINT WHERE I CAN'T DO ANYTHING UNLESS I BREAK AWAY FROM ONE SIDE.
EVEN THOUGH I MANAGED SO FAR,
RIGHT NOW,
THIS IS ALL HAPPENING BECAUSE I'M LIVING A LIE.
I'LL ONLY DO THAT IF I HAVE NO CHOICE.
THINKING ABOUT IT,
IF I GIVE UP ON 765 PRO,
ON THE OTHER HAND, RESIGNING FROM 961 PRO AND CONTINUING TO BE THEIR PRODUCER-
THEY SHOULD STILL BE FINE. THEY AREN'T AS DEPENDENT ON MY SUPPORT AS BEFORE.
!
FOR NOW, NO MATTER HOW THE SITUATION MAY CHANGE,
THE GIRLS HAVE ENOUGH GROUND TO STAND ON THEIR OWN, AT LEAST.

PRESIDENT KUROI. YOU JUST WON'T SHUT UP, WILL YOU.
THAT'S A STRANGE FACE YOU'RE MAKING. ARE YOU FEELING AL-RIGHT?
I'VE GOT MORE ORDERS FOR YOU. LET'S MOVE SOMEWHERE ELSE
WE'LL START THE SONG BATTLE RIGHT AFTER THESE COM-MERCIALS!
.....
HEY, YUKIHO, HIBIKI.
YOU KNOW, ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER?
IT'S NOT JUST ME, RIGHT?
HE SEEMED TO BE FORCING HIMSELF TO SAY THOSE WORDS, DIDN'T HE?

I DON'T DOUBT HIM, BUT...
THERE'S SOMETHING HE ISN'T TELLING US ABOUT...
I... NOTICED THAT, TOO.
SAME HERE.
I'M DEFINITELY NOT IMAGINING THINGS.
OY, YOU THREE.
INSTEAD OF WASTING TIME ON IDLE CHATTER, SHOULDN'T YOU THREE BE GETTING READY?
HOW YOU SPEND YOUR TIME IS NONE OF MY BUSINESS,
BUT DON'T LET THE STAGE CREW'S EFFORT GO TO WASTE.
I MEAN, YOU WERE ALMOST LATE! ARE-
COME ON, TOUMA, QUIT IT.
THERE'S TIME AFTERWARDS FOR YOUR IDLE CHATTER.
WE GOTTA GET READY, YA KNOW?
SORRY ABOUT THAT!
HE ALWAYS GETS TOO FIRED UP ABOUT THESE THINGS.
NO, I FEEL THE SAME WAY.
BUT,

TAKE BACK WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT OUR PRODUCER.
SHOW ME THAT IT'S NOT JUST A SHAM, THEN.
IT'S SHOW-TIME. LET'S WIN THIS, SHALL WE?
COME ON, SIS. DON'T PUT IT THAT WAY.
IT MAY BE A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO DO THAT, YA KNOW?
PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT, PLEASE STOP WITH THAT RIDICULOUS BEHAVIOUR.
IT'S NOT GOOD FOR BUSINESS.
SORRY FOR BEING RUDE.
NOT GOOD FOR BUSINESS, YOU SAY?
I JUST FOUND IT ALL SO AMUSING.
I CAN'T STOP MYSELF, EITHER.
I CAN'T HELP IT.
YOU KNOW.
IT WAS HILARIOUS SEEING YOU TRY TO AVOID ANSWERING.
LET'S START OUR SONG BATTLE!
FIRST UP IS A SONG FROM JUPITER-
THAT UNIT OF YOURS SEEMS TO TRUST YOU A LOT.
YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THEIR FACES WHEN TOUMA WAS YELLING AT YOU.
LOOKS LIKE THEY TOOK IT PERSONALLY.
HE NOTICED THAT!?
THAT'S GOOD AND ALL, BUT,
FOR YOUR LAST ORDER,

AMAZING! IT'S A PERFECT PERFOR-MANCE!
AND THE JUDGES GIVE-
FULL POINTS!
HOW WILL SPROUT COMPETE WITH THEIR RECORD?
AFTER SPROUT GETS DEFEATED BY JUPITER-
DISBAND THE UNIT.
『Alice or Guilty』
HIBIKI, HARUKA...
DON'T BE SCARED, YUKIHO! WE HAVEN'T LOST YET!
WELL, THEY ARE PRETTY AMAZING, I'LL GIVE THEM THAT.
FOR OUR PRO-DUCER'S SAKE-

SPROUT HASN'T LOST YET.
NO.
WATCH-ING... HUH?
Y, YEAH! BECAUSE OUR PRODUCER IS WATCH-ING-
WHERE ARE YOU, PRODUCER...?
A PER-FECT SIDE ALWAYS WINS.
THERE'S NO ESCAPING THAT.

I'M PRETTY CERTAIN THAT YOU'VE RIGGED THIS CONTEST.
BUT,
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO TRY SO HARD.
SO, IT'S COME TO THIS.
BE-CAUSE, PRESI-DENT,
I REFUSE.

BAH.
WHAT A HALF-ASSED SHOW.
IN A STUNNING DISPLAY, THEY STOLE THE SHOW COMPLETELY!
AND THE WINNER OF TODAY'S CONTEST IS-
JUPITER!
Sprou
I WILL NOT BETRAY THEM IN THIS MANNER.
AND AS FOR YOUR ORDERS,
I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO BOTHER.
EVEN THOUGH WE ASKED HIM TO WATCH US...
LET'S GO, HARUKA...
WE GOT TO GO FIND HIM.
OUR PRODUCER.
HE WASN'T AROUND WHEN WE NEEDED HIM THE MOST...
PRODUCER, YOU IDIOT...
YOU LIAR...